Constitutional status to Minorities Commission

*165. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to accord constitutional status to the Minorities Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) It has been decided to accord constitutional status to the National Commission for Minorities.

(b) and (c) It will be necessary to introduce two Bills, to repeal the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 and to amend the Constitution to grant constitutional status to the Commission. The Bills will be introduced as soon as possible.

Status of the ICDS

*166. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are achieving slow progress in the implementation of the Integrated Child Development Scheme for providing nutritional food to poor children and establishing of Anganwadi centres; and

(b) if so, the status of implementation of the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a Centrally-sponsored Scheme implemented through the State Governments with 100% financial assistance from the Central Government for inputs other than supplementary nutrition which the State Governments have to provide out of their own resources.